

# WHAT <sup>IN THE</sup> WORLD?

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MARCH 2012



LesPlan

A monthly current events resource for Canadian classrooms

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# TO THE TEACHER

## WHAT IN THE WORLD?

Level 2, March 2012

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## NEXT ISSUE

The **April** issue will be available *on or about* April 1.



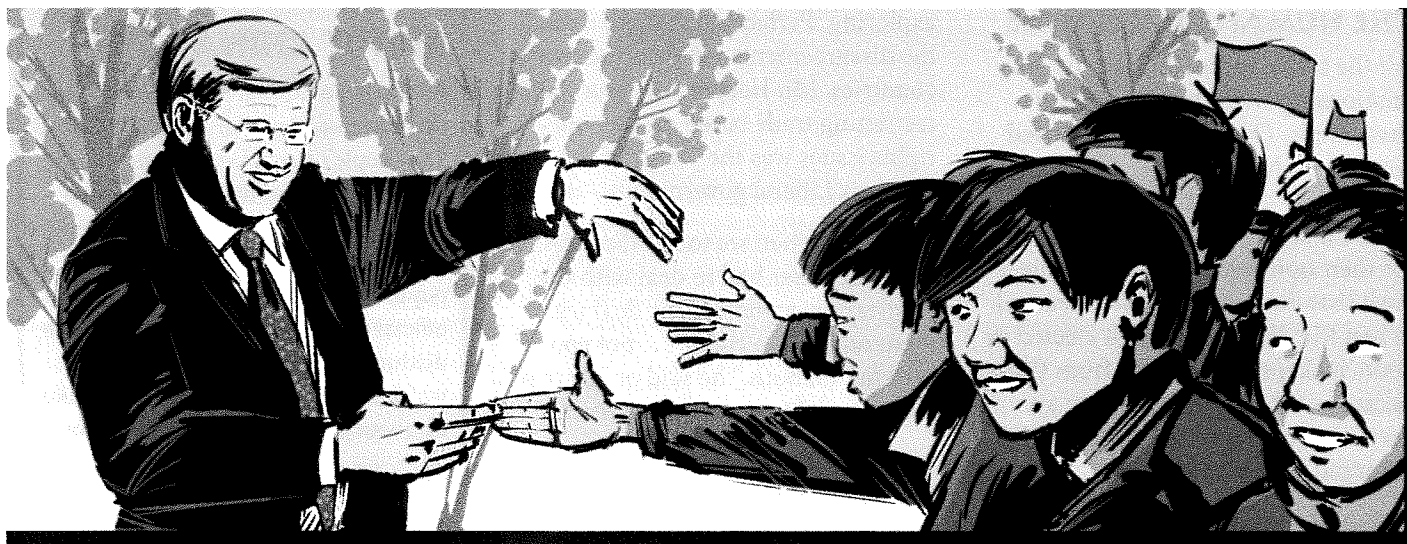
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NATIONAL

# THE PRIME MINISTER GOES TO CHINA



Smiling Chinese students holding small Canadian flags greeted Prime Minister Stephen Harper in early February. Mr. Harper, on a four-day trip to the Asian nation, had just dropped in on Huamei Bond International School while conducting business in the city of Guangzhou.

The school visit was a friendly gesture – but it was also smart. Why? Some 65,000 Chinese students attend university in Canada every year. Their tuition and living expenses contribute nearly \$2 billion to our **economy**.

“I like to experience different cultures, a different type of education,” said one pupil, 17-year-old Janet Yin, who wants to study in Canada. “British Columbia is one of the most beautiful places in the world as far as I’ve heard so I would like to go and see.”

## MR. HARPER’S MISSION

Mr. Harper, accompanied by five **cabinet ministers**, six other Conservative Members of Parliament, and 40 business and community

leaders, was on a **trade mission** to promote other ways in which China and Canada might co-operate to the two countries’ mutual benefit.

China is Canada’s second-largest trading partner after the United States. In the last decade, trade between the two countries has tripled. In 2010, our nation **exported** more than \$13 billion worth of chemicals, metals, machinery, wood products and fish to the Chinese, and **imported** more than \$44 billion in mainly manufactured goods.

Now, Mr. Harper is exploring a new opportunity. With its rapidly growing economy, China needs oil and gas to meet the demand of its citizens and businesses – and we have plenty to sell. In particular, Alberta produces lots of oil and is rich in natural gas. If we can get this energy to Asia, China would be willing to buy it.

## WANTED: NEW ENERGY CUSTOMERS

Finding new clients for our energy is becoming more important every day.

The U.S. is still Canada’s biggest energy customer. But for environmental reasons, the U.S. government recently delayed construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have transported more of our oil to refineries there. Now, no one knows if it will ever be built.

Meanwhile, the Chinese invest about \$14 billion a year in Canadian companies – most of it in oil and gas enterprises – in hopes of gaining access to our energy. To expand our market, therefore, Canadian firms want to build a pipeline from Alberta to British Columbia so our crude could be shipped by tankers to Asia via the Pacific Ocean.

The plan has stirred its own controversy over environmental risks. But if it gets the go-ahead, energy sales to Asia could give our economy a real boost. Mr. Harper’s China visit is one way of signalling – to Canadians as well as to the Chinese – that he is in favour of the project.

## DEFINITIONS

**CABINET MINISTERS:** Conservative Members of Parliament who have been chosen by the Prime Minister to give advice and be responsible for its policies

**ECONOMY:** the wealth and resources of a country or region

**EXPORTED:** sold to foreign countries

**IMPORTED:** bought from foreign countries

**TRADE MISSION:** people sent by government and/or business to a foreign country in an effort to stimulate trade



# THE PRIME MINISTER GOES TO CHINA

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

All the same, increasing our trading relationship with the Chinese isn't that simple. One reason? By **United Nations** (UN) standards, China has a poor record on **human rights**. People can be jailed, tortured or even killed for their opinions or for practicing a faith that doesn't have state approval. When Mr. Harper was first elected in 2006, he kept his distance from China because of this, even declining an invitation to attend the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

"I think Canadians want us to promote our trade relations worldwide, and we do that, but I don't think Canadians want us to sell out important Canadian values," he said at that time. "They don't want us to sell out to the almighty dollar."

## DID YOU KNOW...?

As a gesture of friendship, on the last day of Mr. Harper's visit the Chinese government agreed to loan two pandas to Canada for 10 years. The pair will spend five years at the Toronto Zoo before moving to the Calgary Zoo.

For their part, Chinese officials have made it clear that they resent outsiders who want to interfere with their internal policies.

## A CHANGE OF TUNE

As a result, Canadian-Chinese relations were frosty during Mr. Harper's first years in power. But since then, Western nations have suffered a **recession**, so any new market to help our economy recover seems worth

exploring. Perhaps to smooth over the disagreements between the two countries, Mr. Harper now says that restricting trade based on human rights issues was the policy of the previous Liberal government – not his.

"The view when we took office was that you either had to deal with the Chinese on economics or deal with them on human rights . . . but you couldn't do both," he said on his trip. "We refused to accept that view."

Still, to do more business with the Chinese, Mr. Harper understands that he must convince Canadians that our government is behaving ethically. To that end, he reminded a group of Chinese business people that he hoped their country would improve its human rights record.

"In relations between China and Canada, you should expect us to continue to raise issues of fundamental freedoms and human rights," he stated.

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

In any event, from a trade standpoint, Mr. Harper's visit was a success. When he returned to Canada, the Prime Minister announced that he had signed 21 new contracts with Chinese businesses that would add about \$3 billion to our economy. He also reached a deal with the Chinese government to protect Canadians investing in China as well as Chinese investors in Canada.

"I think this trip is really moving us to a totally new level in our relationship," Mr. Harper said. "[It is] going to be good for both of our countries –

## ABOUT CHINA

At about 9.6 million square kilometres, this East Asian nation – officially called The People's Republic of China – is the fourth biggest country by land mass. However, with more than 1.3 billion citizens, it has the world's largest population. Its capital is Beijing and its official language is Mandarin. It has 56 distinct ethnic groups, the largest of which are the Han Chinese, who make up about 91 percent of the population.

China's history dates back to the second century BCE. It became a **communist** country in 1949 following a civil war.

China is the world's largest exporter of goods and is the fastest-growing major economy. Its main exports include office machines, data processing equipment, telecommunications equipment, electrical machinery and clothing. Its major markets are the European Union, the U.S., Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea.

particularly good for the creation of jobs and opportunities in the future."

The visit was equally viewed as a success by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

"You put a lot of value on Canada's relationship with China and are strongly committed to promoting the practical cooperation between our two countries," he said. "I appreciate your efforts." ★

## DEFINITIONS

**COMMUNIST:** a government in which the state plans and controls the economy

**HUMAN RIGHTS:** basic rights, such as the right to life, liberty and to freedom of expression and religion

**RECESSION:** an extended decline in general business activity

**UNITED NATIONS:** an organization of most of the world's countries promoting peace, security, and economic development



NATIONAL

# THE PRIME MINISTER GOES TO CHINA

## ON THE LINES

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. Describe China's economy.

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2. List at least four other important facts about China.

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3. What is the value of Canada's exports to China and what is the value of the goods we import from China?

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4. Describe China's human rights record.

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5. Why was the relationship between Canada and China frosty after Mr. Harper's government came to power in 2006?

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6. Which Canadians travelled to China in early February and why did they make this trip?

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7. Why is China interested in buying Canadian oil and gas?

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8. How much new business did Mr. Harper bring back from China?

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9. What special loan did China make to Canada on the last day of the trade mission?

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# THE PRIME MINISTER GOES TO CHINA

## FACT OR OPINION?

**Facts** are descriptions of what is the case or of what has occurred/will occur. They can be verified or tested; they are true or false. **Opinions** are unconfirmed beliefs or conclusions that indicate what could be or what is a good or bad idea. They can be justified or argued for; they are reasonable or unreasonable.

Mark each statement **F** (Fact) or **O** (Opinion):

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Countries that trade with each other should also share similar values.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. There's nothing wrong with trading with a country that has a poor human rights record.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Canadian government is behaving ethically by trading with China.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. China is the world's largest exporter of goods.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The Canadian government would be foolish not to trade with China.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. China's major markets are the European Union, the U.S., Hong Kong, Japan, and South Korea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Most of Canada's exports go to the United States.

## BETWEEN THE LINES

**Making an inference:** An inference is a conclusion drawn from evidence. *A plausible inference is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.*

What inferences can you draw from the fact that China is the world's fastest-growing major economy?

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## BEYOND THE LINES

It's your turn! Write your own headline for this story. *A good headline is short, excites the reader's interest and provides clear clues as to the topic of the article.*

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## JUST TALK ABOUT IT

- a) For what reasons are you in favour of strengthening Canada's trade ties with China? For what reasons are you opposed?
- b) If you were Prime Minister Harper, how would you handle the issue of trade with China? Explain. ★



**WHAT ARE EDITORIAL CARTOONS?**

Editorial cartoons are found in the editorial – or opinion – section of a newspaper. They are created by cartoonists as a way of visually commenting on and often criticizing the world around them – with humour. Editorial cartoonists express their ideas and opinions about issues (for example, what to do about Canada's economy), events (such as the Olympic Games) or public figures (like the Prime Minister).

Because cartoons are drawn from the viewpoint of the cartoonist they do not tell the whole story about the event, issue or individual, but they reveal important messages. Their purpose is to grab people's attention and cause them to re-examine their views on a subject. Editorial cartoons typically send a particular kind of message. The message is conveyed through images and wordplay. Their tone is generally ironic (portraying events in ways that are unexpected or contrary to how they seem), satiric (ridiculing the event, individual or issue), or humorous (inviting readers to laugh at themselves or at others).

In order to interpret the message of an editorial cartoon it is helpful to understand the **context** – the time, place and situation. It is also useful to understand some of the common **art techniques** used by cartoonists to emphasize their points. Considering these things will help you better decode and appreciate the message behind the cartoon.

**WHAT COMMON ART TECHNIQUES ARE USED BY EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS?**

**Caption** (a sentence or phrase that is the title or explanation of the cartoon);

**Labels** (words or numbers in the drawing to identify people, objects or dates);

**Relative size** (some images are drawn much larger or much smaller than others);

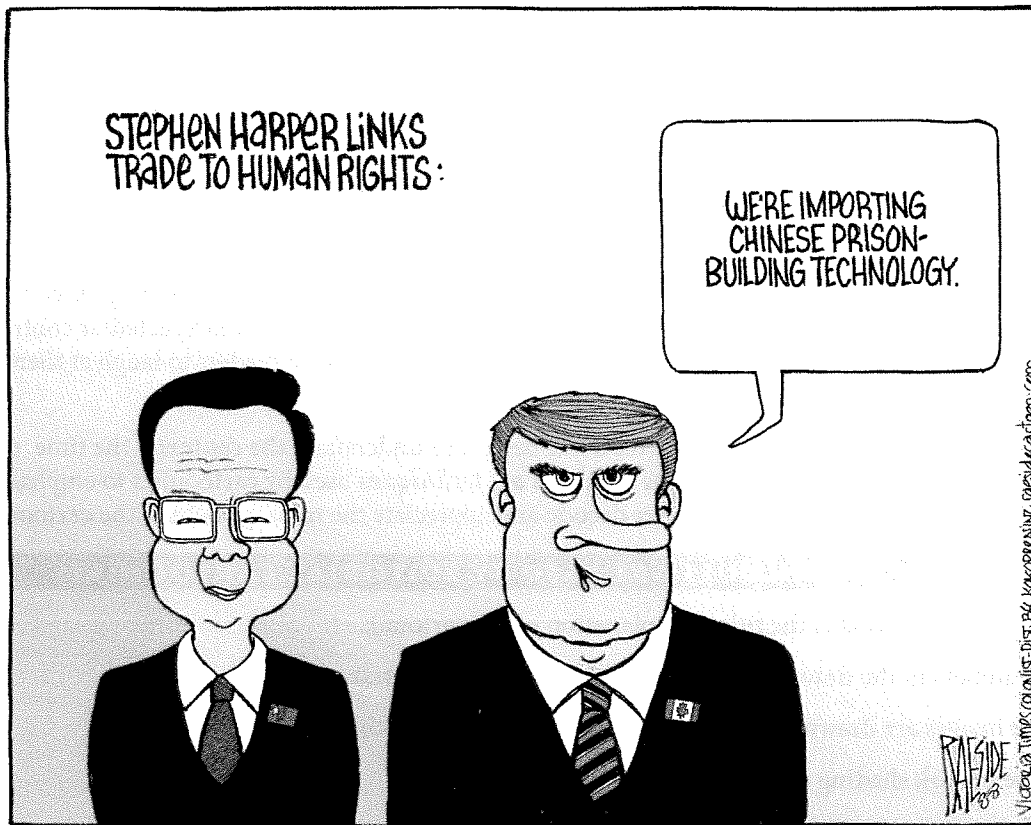
**Light and dark** (use of dark shading and white space to create an effect);

**Composition** (the arrangement or location of figures or objects in the centre or background);

**Symbols** (a sign or image to represent something else);

**Caricature** (a distorted, simplified or exaggerated representation of a figure).

(To learn more about interpreting political cartoons, read the *Toolkit: Decoding Political Cartoons* by Charles Hou on the Library and Archives Canada's web site at <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/education/008-3050-e.html>)

**YOUR TASK:**

Examine the editorial cartoon by Adrian Raeside. Then, use the questions below to help you decode the cartoon's message. Be specific and include as many details as possible in your answers.

**INITIAL READING:** What can an initial look reveal?

1. Glance quickly at the cartoon. What is your first impression – your “gut response”?
2. Consider your background knowledge. What do you already know about the context of the cartoon – the time, place or situation? (List key facts.)

**CLOSER LOOK:** How do the cartooning techniques help to present the message?

3. Find *labels*. How do the words (or numbers) in the drawing express ideas or identify people or objects? What message do the labels send?
4. Notice the *caricature*. How do the exaggerated, oversimplified or distorted features of the figures or objects add to the effect of the cartoon? What message does this send to the reader?
5. Study the use of *light and dark*. How do shading and white space create an effect? How does this add to the message?
6. Look at the *composition*. Where are figures or objects located or arranged in the cartoon? What message does this send about their importance?
7. Identify the *symbols*. What do these signs or images represent? How do they add to the message of the cartoon?

**DRAW CONCLUSIONS:** What overall impression can you draw?

8. Identify possible biases. Whose perspective or point of view is expressed in the cartoon?
9. Explain the overall message of the cartoon in a paragraph. (Remember, a good interpretation is *specific* and *detailed*.) ★

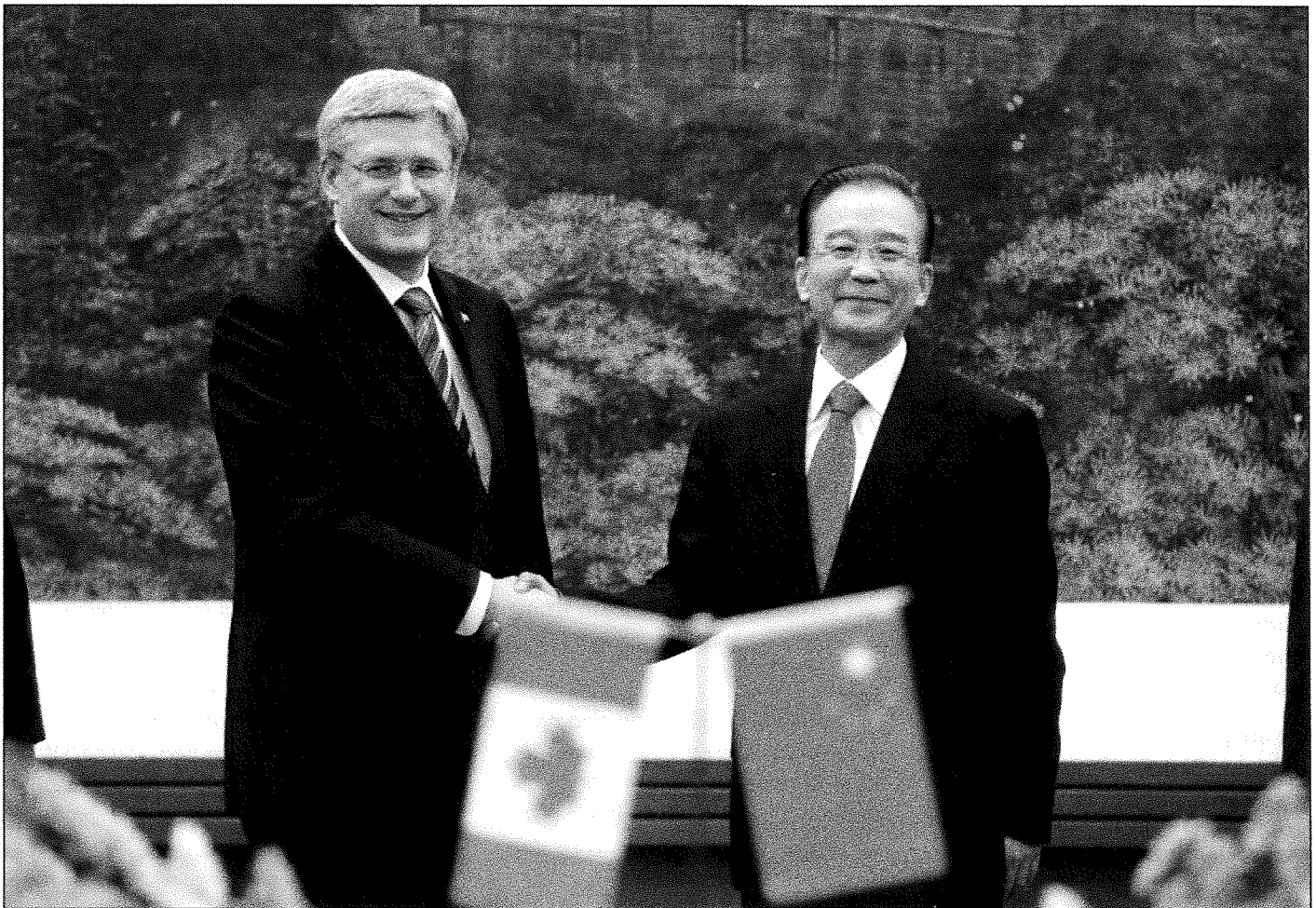
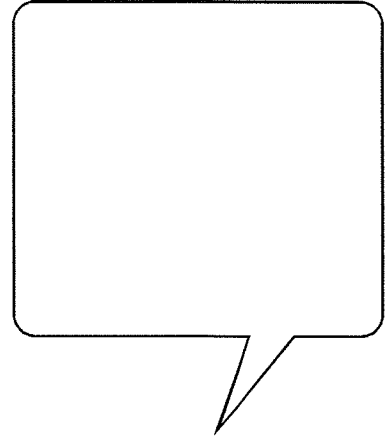
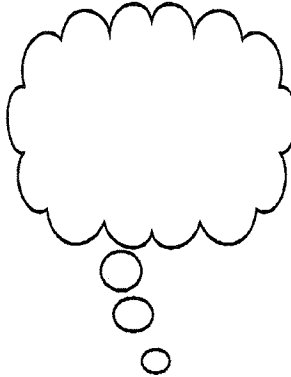
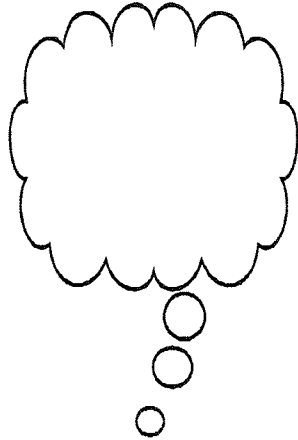
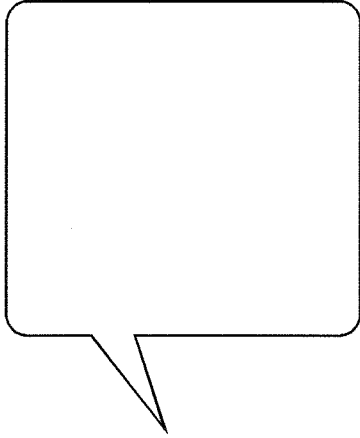




NATIONAL

# THE PRIME MINISTER GOES TO CHINA

Write the inner and outer dialogue for two or more people in this scene. Show what the person is thinking/feeling (inner voice) and saying (outer voice). *A believable conversation conveys appropriate ideas, thoughts, feelings or reactions; is on topic; extends the details of the scene; and is convincing.*



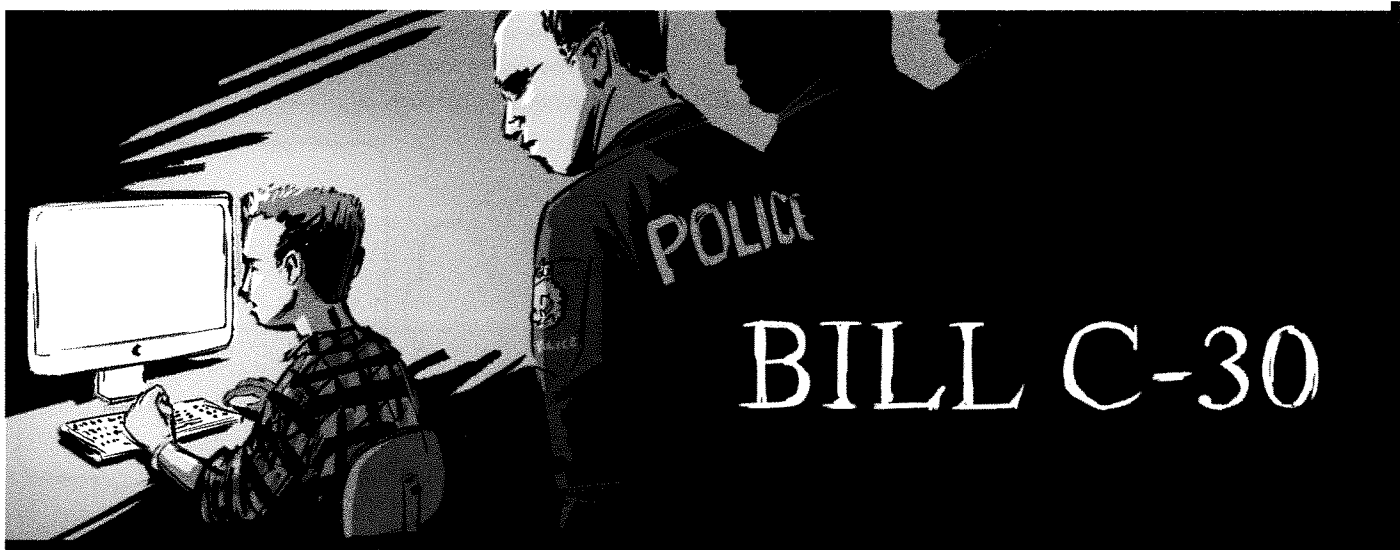
Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper (L) shakes hands with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao after their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on February 8, 2012.

(DIEGO AZUBEL / AFP/Getty Images)



NATIONAL

# A BUMPY RIDE FOR BILL C-30



You know the basic rules of Internet safety. Don't give out personal information. Watch what you say, because everything you put on the Internet is part of your digital footprint. And check with a parent or teacher if you're unsure about anything you see or read.

But have you ever thought about your online *behaviour* – and who might be tracking it?

## WHAT IS BILL C-30?

On February 14, the Conservative government introduced Bill C-30 in Parliament. The aim of this **legislation**? To give police and intelligence agencies new powers to access Canadians' telecommunications subscriber data and their electronic communications so they can quickly retrieve information about suspicious online activity.

"We are proposing measures to bring our laws into the 21st century and to provide the police with the lawful tools that they need," explained Public Safety Minister Vic Toews in introducing the bill.

## CATCHING CYBER-CRIMINALS

In today's world, many crimes are carried out on or using the Internet, and a big part of police work involves tracking down criminals involved in these illegal cyber-activities. This can be difficult, since the only way to identify people who want to be anonymous online is through Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

Currently, if police want an ISP to provide them with private information, such as a subscriber's name, address, phone number, email address, or IP address, the law says investigators must obtain a **warrant**. However, if Bill C-30 goes ahead as it's written, a warrant will no longer be necessary. Police will be able to get subscribers' information from telecommunications companies on demand.

The proposed legislation also requires ISPs and mobile phone companies to alter their equipment – at an estimated cost of \$80 million – so that authorities with a warrant can

## ISP VS. IP: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are organizations that provide access to the Internet. Customers' computers are connected to ISPs using copper wires, or wireless or fiber-optic connections. ISPs, in turn, are connected to other networks, which connect to others – forming the Internet.

Each device that participates in a computer network is assigned a numerical label, known as an Internet Protocol address (or IP address). So while users on the Internet can be anonymous, their identities are known by ISPs who can match the IP addresses in their network to the names, addresses and phone numbers of their subscribers.

With an IP address, investigators can view a user's entire online history – all the websites that have been visited, all the videos that have been viewed and all the emails that have been sent and received.

## DEFINITIONS

**LEGISLATION:** proposed law or laws

**WARRANT:** a document issued by a judge that gives the police permission to do something, such as carry out a search



# A BUMPY RIDE FOR BILL C-30

monitor the real-time actions of all Internet and cell phone users.

## REACTION TO THE BILL

The Canadian Association of Police Chiefs, the Canadian Police Association and the RCMP were very pleased with the introduction of Bill C-30, saying that the proposed changes to the Criminal Code would bring Canada in line with similar laws already in place in the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Germany, and Sweden.

“The global Internet, cellular phones and social media have been widely adopted and enjoyed by Canadians, young and old . . . These new technologies are also being used as a safe haven for criminal activity,” said Vancouver Police Deputy Chief Warren Lemcke. “This is a huge challenge facing law enforcement agencies. We collectively need every reasonable tool to prevent such activity from happening in the first place, and to investigate and lay charges when it does.”

## DID YOU KNOW...?

Some 95 percent of Canadians use a computer, either at work or at home. About 79 percent have Internet access.

However, others – including privacy groups, opposition parties and some Conservative Members of Parliament – were strongly opposed to the bill. They say the legislation puts Canadians’ privacy at risk by making details about our personal affairs too available to others.

“Since this broad power is not limited to . . . suspect criminal activity or to a criminal investigation, it could affect any law-abiding citizen,” said Jennifer Stoddart, Canada’s privacy commissioner.

Critics also fear that Bill C-30 could lead to abuses by police or even government officials.

“[It means] government agents may enter an ISP when they wish . . . and demand to see absolutely everything – including all data anywhere on the network – and to copy it all,” journalist Terry Milewski wrote. “[An inspector] gets to see any information . . . available to the system. Yours, mine and everyone else’s emails, phone calls, web surfing, shopping – you name it.”

A final criticism? Many say a new law isn’t even necessary. In 2010, the RCMP alone made more than 28,000 requests for customer names and addresses. About 95 percent of these requests were granted by ISPs, even when there was no warrant. That’s because most companies don’t demand a legal document before turning over private information; they want to assist law enforcement agencies in fighting online crime.

## ON SECOND THOUGHT

In the face of this criticism, the government insisted that the legislation wouldn’t intrude on the lives of ordinary Canadians; it will merely give authorities another tool for catching criminals.

“[The bill] strikes the balance between investigative powers used to protect public safety and necessity to safeguard privacy,” stated Justice Minister Rob Nicholson.

Nonetheless, on February 15, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he would ask a committee to reconsider several aspects of the legislation. While the government remains in favour of changing the law to help police fight Internet crime, it doesn’t want Canadians’ privacy to be sacrificed in the process.

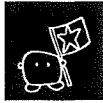
## PRIVACY AND THE LAW IN CANADA

Law enforcement officers in Canada have always had the right to gather confidential information, but how that information can be collected has changed over the years.

Before the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was adopted in 1982, police could seek and collect information without a search warrant if senior officers agreed there were reasonable grounds. Some legal protections prevented searches from going too far, but nothing could really be done if investigators crossed a line.

The Charter changed that. It sought to safeguard every Canadian citizen’s privacy – including that of suspected criminals. The reason? A matter of principle. The new rules showed we placed great importance on protecting personal rights, even when doing so seemed against the public interest.

“We will ensure that Parliament fully studies this bill and that private life is protected,” Mr. Harper said. ★



NATIONAL

# A BUMPY RIDE FOR BILL C-30

## ON THE LINES

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. How many people in Canada have access to a computer?

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2. What private information do Internet Service Providers keep about their subscribers?

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3. Describe the legal rules now in place if police wish to obtain confidential information from an ISP.

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4. What is the objective behind Bill C-30?

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5. How will this proposed law change Internet privacy in Canada?

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6. List at least two organizations that are in favour of Bill C-30.

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7. List at least two reasons why some groups are opposed to Bill C-30.

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NATIONAL

# A BUMPY RIDE FOR BILL C-30

## BETWEEN THE LINES

**Making an inference:** An inference is a conclusion drawn from evidence. *A plausible inference is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.*

What inferences can you draw from the fact that some 95 percent of Canadians have access to a computer, either at home or at work?

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## JUST TALK ABOUT IT

1. Consider the following:

*"There was . . . no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment . . . It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time."*

This quote is from British author George Orwell's famous novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Mr. Orwell's book pictured a dystopian – or unbearably miserable – future in which a totalitarian government used technology to gain access to everyone's private lives. Officials then used people's secrets to control and manipulate their behaviour.

As you see it, in what ways does this quote relate to Bill C-30? Do you believe it is possible that a scenario like that described in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* could evolve out of legislation like Bill C-30? Give reasons to explain your response.

2. a) For what reasons are you in favour of Bill C-30? For what reasons are you opposed?

b) If you were Prime Minister Stephen Harper, how would you handle the issue of fighting Internet crime? Explain.

## ONLINE

Visit our student website at [www.news4youth.com](http://www.news4youth.com) and click on the *What in the World?* tab to:

1. Vote in our monthly **poll**:

What do you think of Bill C-30?

*I am in favour of Bill C-30. / I am against Bill C-30.*

2. Submit your thoughts to our **forum**:

As you see it, which is more important: public safety or personal privacy? Give reasons to support your response.

*A good submission is clearly written, logically organized (including an introduction and a conclusion), and supported with plausible reasoning.*

**We'll post the best submissions! ★**



INTERNATIONAL

# IRAN FLEXES ITS NUCLEAR MUSCLE



Is Iran building a dangerous nuclear weapon to threaten other nations? Or is it merely working on a new source of energy? For years, that question deeply troubled the international community as it watched the Middle Eastern country expand its nuclear program. Finding out hasn't been easy, however, because Iran has routinely blocked international efforts to investigate.

Finally, a United Nations (UN) report issued last November arrived at a scary conclusion. Iran *is* trying to manufacture atomic weapons. Now, the world is trying to figure out how to respond.

## CONVINCING EVIDENCE

Iran has always denied it was building a nuclear bomb. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says the nation's nuclear program is moving forward to provide more electrical power for its growing population and economy. He claims that is the only reason the country is planning to make yellowcake, a

chemically-treated form of **uranium ore** essential to nuclear power.

Most of the world isn't buying his story. Yellowcake is a key ingredient in nuclear weaponry. If Iran simply wants to produce energy, it can buy the exact amount of yellowcake it needs from other countries. But if it starts making its own, the outside world can't monitor how much yellowcake it has or how this material will be used.

What's more, Iran has huge resources of other forms of energy, such as oil and gas. That weakens the claim that it needs another source of power.

In any event, UN weapons inspectors with the **International Atomic Energy Agency** (IAEA) insist there is no longer any doubt about Iran's real motives. They say their information comes from more than 10 countries, other independent sources and scientists.

"I think the accumulation of evidence has been overwhelming," agreed Aurel

## ABOUT IRAN

Officially the Islamic Republic of Iran, this Middle Eastern nation is strategically located on the Persian Gulf. Called Persia until 1935, it was once a great empire, known for its poets, its artists and its culture in general.

At over 1.5 million square kilometres, Iran is slightly larger than Quebec. The main language is Persian and Tehran is the capital. Oil is the main export. There are eight ethnic groups in a population of nearly 78 million. Some 98 percent of Iranians are Muslims.

For the past 33 years, the nation has had a **theocratic** system of government. Iran and its Middle Eastern neighbour Israel have long had a hostile relationship that many fear could escalate into war if Iran continues along the path to nuclear armament.

Braun, a political science professor at the University of Toronto.

## DEFINITIONS

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA):** UN agency charged with monitoring the world's nuclear activities

**THEOCRATIC:** a government run by those who believe they are directed by God

**URANIUM ORE:** a heavy silvery-white metallic element that is radioactive and toxic



**TAKING ACTION**

Iran began a peaceful nuclear program in the 1950s with the help of the United States when the two countries were allies. However, after Iran underwent a revolution in 1979 and its attitude toward the West changed, concern over its nuclear capabilities arose. As far back as 2005, strong evidence suggested it had already begun working on nuclear weapons. In response, other countries began imposing **sanctions** against it.

Then, after the recent UN report offered more proof, Canada, the United States and the European Union went further. They approved an **embargo** on buying oil from Iran set to begin on July 1. The West will also stop doing business with Iranian banks and oil companies. The goal is to weaken the Iranian government, forcing it into talks – and into shelving its nuclear weapons development program.

**TENSIONS ESCALATE**

As sanctions become more severe, they are taking a toll on Iran's economy. The country increasingly has had difficulty importing food and trading with the world at large.

In late January, President Ahmadinejad retaliated by vowing to block international access to the Strait of Hormuz. The narrow strait off Iran is the only way to get from the Persian Gulf to the open sea. One-fifth of all Middle East oil travels through this route. Its closure would drastically reduce world supplies and cause the price of the fuel to soar. That could harm a struggling global economy.

**FLEXING MUSCLE**

In response, the U.S. said that it wouldn't allow Iran to close the strait. It has aircraft carriers in the area to ensure that the key route remains open. So in mid-February, the Iranian government tried to force the West to back away from sanctions using a different tactic.

This time, President Ahmadinejad bragged that his country already has sophisticated nuclear technology. He backed up the claim by loading fuel rods into the core of a **nuclear reactor** while cameras clicked away and international media recorded his actions. Fuel rods are important components in bomb building, yet he insisted Iran would use the nuclear power for medical purposes.

No one can say for certain if Iran really has the technology to build a bomb, but many experts believe it is close. That's why Western nations took the President's gesture as a threat.

Mr. Ahmadinejad also said he wouldn't wait for July. Iran would immediately stop exporting oil to the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands. But despite the hardship that could cause, the West isn't backing down.

"Iran's current leaders . . . **obfuscate** their nuclear activities by blocking international attempts to verify the country's claims," said Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird. "With its actions, Iran continues to undermine regional and global security and stability." ★

**A TERRIBLE POWER**

Nuclear weapons were first used by the U.S. against Japan during World War II. Then, other countries began developing their own nuclear weapons. But as more of them became capable of producing these powerful weapons, the world grew anxious over their terrible destructive power.

In 1970, the United Nations (UN) Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was created to prevent countries that had not yet developed nuclear weapons from acquiring them, and to work towards nuclear disarmament among nations that already possessed them.

Countries that have signed this treaty – there are 190, including Iran – must follow rules, such as declaring all their nuclear activities and allowing International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to verify their claims. In exchange, other signatories help them in their development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Today, the U.S. has the vast majority of nuclear weapons, followed by the former USSR (Russia). Smaller numbers are held by the United Kingdom, France, China, India, and Pakistan. Israel also has nuclear weapons, but has not confirmed that fact publicly. Over a dozen other countries can, or soon could, make nuclear weapons.

**DEFINITIONS**

**EMBARGO:** a prohibition by a government on trade with a foreign nation

**NUCLEAR REACTOR:** an apparatus used to generate power using nuclear energy

**OBFUSCATE:** to purposely confuse in order to hide something

**SANCTIONS:** penalties imposed by one nation on another for violating a legal agreement or treaty



# IRAN FLEXES ITS NUCLEAR MUSCLE

## ON THE LINES

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. Describe the type of government in Iran.

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2. List at least five other important facts about Iran.

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3. Why does Iran say it wants to develop nuclear power?

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4. What did a recent UN report conclude is the real purpose of Iran's nuclear program?

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5. What have some nations done to try to pressure Iran to stop its nuclear program? Explain.

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6. How has Iran responded to increasing pressure from the West? Explain.

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7. Explain what effect these actions might have on western economies.

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**FACT OR OPINION?**

**Facts** are descriptions of what is the case or of what has occurred/will occur. They can be verified or tested; they are true or false. **Opinions** are unconfirmed beliefs or conclusions that indicate what could be or what is a good or bad idea. They can be justified or argued for; they are reasonable or unreasonable.

Mark each statement **F** (Fact) or **O** (Opinion):

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The U.S. was the first country to use a nuclear weapon against another nation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was created in part to prevent countries that had not yet developed nuclear weapons from acquiring them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has been highly effective at preventing countries without nuclear weapons from acquiring them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Iran should be allowed to continue its nuclear program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The world should not believe what Iranian President Ahmadinejad says about his country's nuclear program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Iran's leaders are blocking international attempts to verify the country's nuclear claims.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Iran has stopped exporting oil to many European nations.

**BETWEEN THE LINES**

An **inference** is a conclusion drawn from evidence. *A plausible inference is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.*

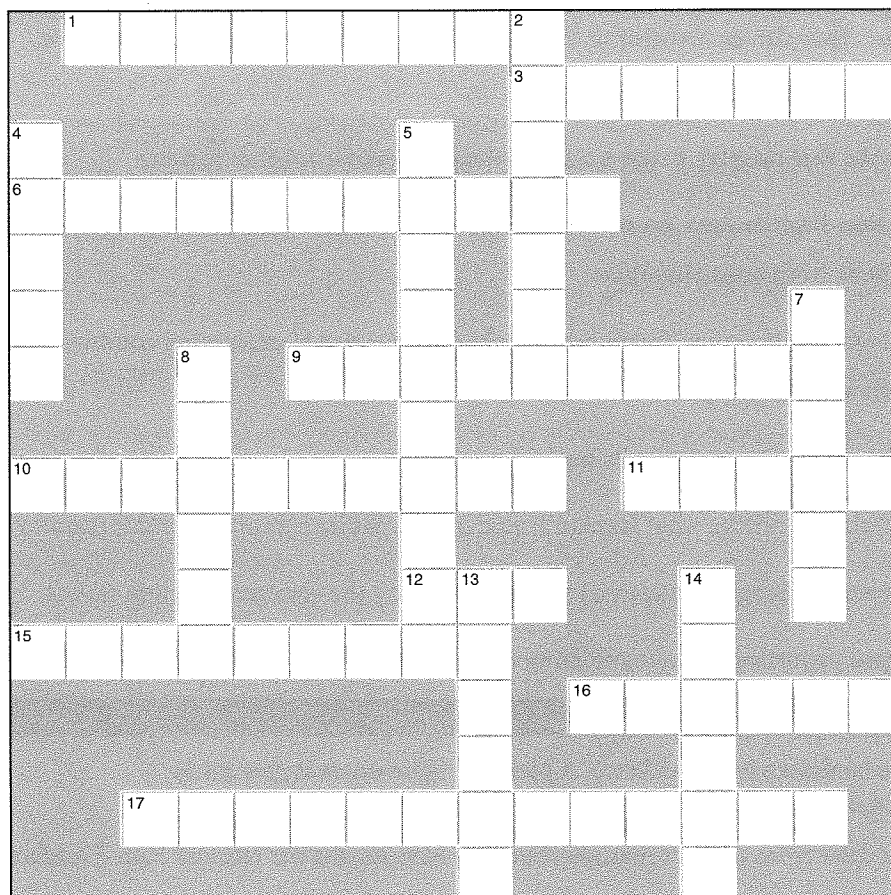
What inferences can you draw from the fact that 190 countries have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

**BEYOND THE LINES**

**Writing from a perspective:** Imagine that you are an Iranian citizen who supports your country's nuclear program. On a separate piece of paper, write a letter to the editor, expressing your view of President Ahmadinejad's recent actions. Then, write a second letter, imagining that you are an Israeli citizen. *A good letter clearly explains your position, is supported with plausible arguments, and is well-written (uses sound paragraph structure, correct grammar and spelling).*

**JUST TALK ABOUT IT**

1. Why do you suppose Iran might be working on a nuclear weapons program? Explain.
2. As you see it, for what reasons should Iran be allowed to continue developing nuclear weapons? For what reasons should Iran be forced to stop its nuclear weapons program?
3. What do you suppose might happen if Iran continues on with its program? Give reasons to support your response. ★


**ACROSS**

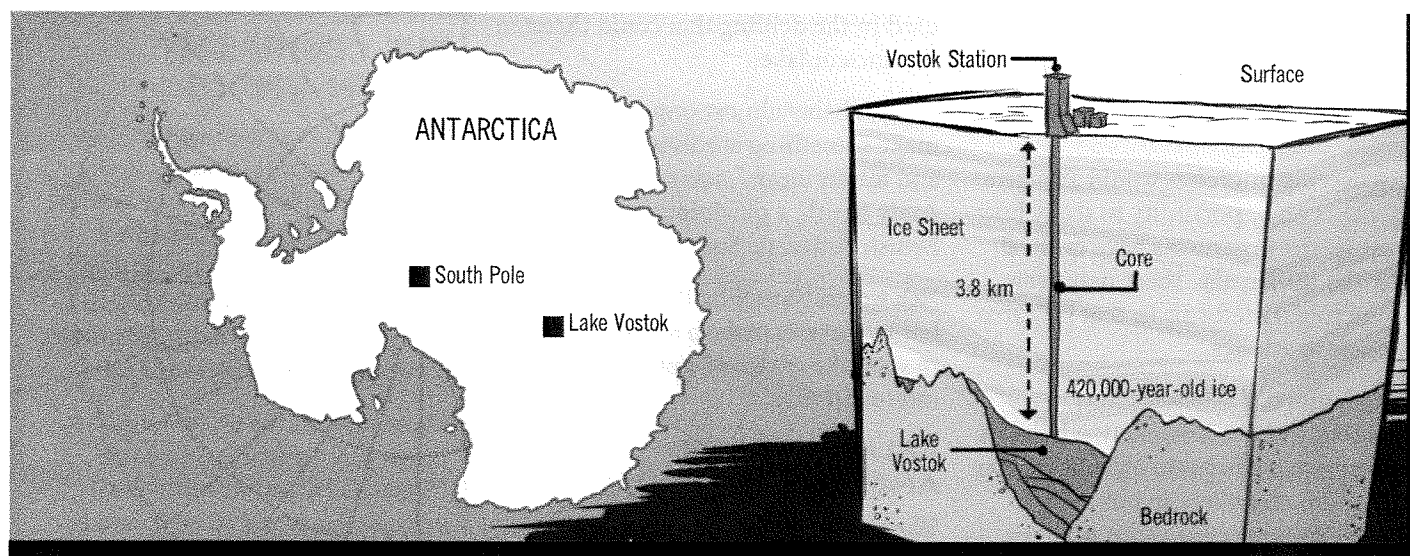
1. to purposely confuse
3. 98 percent of Iranians are \_\_\_\_\_
6. president of Iran
9. chemically-treated form of uranium ore
10. Iran has a \_\_\_\_\_ system of government
11. Canada's foreign affairs minister
12. Iran's largest export
15. penalties imposed by one nation on another
16. Strait of \_\_\_\_\_
17. Nuclear Non-\_\_\_\_\_ Treaty

**DOWN**

2. a prohibition by a government on trade with a foreign nation
4. U.S. used atomic weapons against this country in 1945
5. this occurred in Iran in 1979
7. capital of Iran
8. International \_\_\_\_\_ Energy Agency
13. Iran has a hostile relationship with this country
14. old name for Iran



# DRILLING DEEP IN ANTARCTICA



It is the coldest place on the planet. At the Vostok Station in Antarctica, the temperature has dropped as low as minus 89 degrees Celsius. Even in summer, this area on the East Antarctic Ice Sheet is a hostile place to live and work.

Yet in recent weeks, Russian scientists at the station have been working night and day. Using special equipment, they have been drilling down through the Antarctic ice cap. Their destination: a huge, liquid body of water the size of Lake Ontario that lies 3.8 kilometres beneath the glacier's surface.

Normally, water at these extreme conditions would only exist in the form of ice. In this case, the combination of pressure from the ice above and heat from the Earth below keeps Lake Vostok from freezing. For decades, the Russians have been trying to obtain a sample of this **pristine** water to see what it might contain.

"It's like working on an alien planet where no one has been before," said Valerie Lukin from Russia's Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

"We don't know what awaits us down there."

## EUREKA!

In early February, the Russians announced a breakthrough. They had reached Lake Vostok, and just in time. Winter is coming, and the harsher weather will soon force scientists to put their project on hold until planes can land again at the station next summer.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

At 15,000 square kilometres, with depths of at least 800 metres, Lake Vostok is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world. However, it is just one of more than 300 **subglacial** lakes in Antarctica.

"It is an important milestone that has been completed and a major achievement for the Russians because they've been working on this for years," said Professor Martin Siegert of the British Antarctic Survey.

## WHAT'S IN THE WATER?

Forms of life have been shown to survive in the strangest and harshest places on the planet. So what do scientists think they might discover in Lake Vostok's dark depths? Prehistoric fish? Plants? No – only microbes, which are bacteria so small that they can't be seen with the naked eye.

Scientists, however, are excited about this possibility. Microbes, they say, were the first form of life on Earth; they existed long before plants and animals.

"Microbes are where we come from," explained one scientist.

That makes these tiny bacteria very interesting to researchers.

Lake Vostok's microbes are particularly enticing to scientists due to their incredible isolation. Sealed by an ice cap that prevented water from escaping and anything else from getting in, the lake may have been cut off from the rest of the world for 15 or 20 million years. If they exist, those tiny germs in Lake Vostok could give

## DEFINITIONS

**PRISTINE:** completely free from dirt or contamination

**SUBGLACIAL:** located beneath a glacier



# DRILLING DEEP IN ANTARCTICA

scientists a glimpse into long-ago life forms. They could expand our knowledge of the origins of life on the planet.

Discovering microbes would also give scientists an opportunity to study how these micro-organisms have evolved over the **millennia**. There may even be microbial lifeforms in that lake that are new to science.

What's more, if scientists find microbes in Lake Vostok, that bolsters the hope that life could exist in similar conditions elsewhere in our solar system. There are places on Jupiter's moon, Europa, or Saturn's moon, Enceladus, where water is trapped under crusts of ice. Conditions in the Antarctic lake may not be all that different than in those other-worldly environments. This fascinates astrobiologists, who study the origins of life and its likely distribution across the universe.

## GETTING TO THIS POINT

When the Russians established their research base at Vostok Station in 1956, seismic soundings through the ice suggested that there was an area of liquid underneath. But it was only in the 1990s, with the help of satellites and space radar, that scientists first saw images of the vast lake's outline.

The Russians made their first attempt to drill down to Lake Vostok in 1998. They were almost there when they stopped over fears about possible contamination of the lake. Greenpeace Russia and other environmental watchdogs were concerned about the 60 tonnes of **lubricants** and **antifreeze**

used in the drilling that could threaten the ancient lake.

"It's probably almost impossible to make something absolutely, utterly and totally clean," acknowledged Dr. Andy Smith, a **glaciologist** with the British Antarctic Survey.

"It's worth [sampling the waters] ... but we have to make a huge effort not to spoil the environment by being interested in it."

## BALANCING RISKS AND BENEFITS

Work resumed in 2004 after the Russian team came up with a new, environmentally safe method of drilling. Instead of punching through to the lake, they planned to drill down until a sensor on their equipment detected free water. Then they would take the drill out, and adjust the pressure so that any liquid in the drill hole would be sucked upwards, rather than allowed to fall down. The sucked-up lake water would refreeze, creating a plug of ice in the bottom of the hole.

That's as far as the team got in February. Now, they have to wait until December, when the next Antarctic summer begins, to return and remove some of that ice for analysis.

They can't wait.

"There is no other place on Earth that has been in isolation for more than 20 million years," said Russian researcher Lev Savatyugin, who took part in the mission.

"It's a meeting with the unknown." ★

## THE CONTINENT DOWN-UNDER

Antarctica lies at the South Pole. At 14 million square kilometres in size, this continent is almost twice as large as Australia, but 98 percent of it is covered by ice that averages at least 1.6 kilometres thick. Underneath is a rocky landscape of almost 5,000-metre mountain ranges, valleys and lakes.

On average, Antarctica is the coldest, driest, and windiest continent on the planet. In fact, with an annual precipitation of just 200 millimetres along the coast (and much less inland), it is considered a desert.

No country owns Antarctica, and the continent has no permanent residents. However, since World War II, a number of countries have set up research stations there. Today, 28 nations are currently carrying out research on the frozen continent.

The Antarctic Treaty, which 49 countries have signed, was drawn up in 1959 to ensure that "in the interest of all ... Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord." Specifically, the treaty calls for freedom of scientific investigation, cooperation, and sharing of results.

An addition to the treaty, called the Protocol on Environmental Protection, came into force in 1998. It designates Antarctica as a "natural reserve, devoted to peace and science." All activities related to mineral resources are prohibited, except for scientific research.

## DEFINITIONS

**ANTIFREEZE:** a liquid added to water to lower its freezing point  
**GLACIOLOGIST:** a scientist who studies glaciers

**LUBRICANTS:** substances capable of reducing friction by making surfaces smooth or slippery  
**MILLENNIA:** spans of 1,000 years





# DRILLING DEEP IN ANTARCTICA

## ON THE LINES

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. List at least three important facts about Antarctica.

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2. Describe Lake Vostok.

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3. Explain why water in this lake is not frozen.

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4. Scientists from which country are drilling down to this lake?

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5. Why did researchers stop drilling six years after they started?

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6. What do researchers hope they might discover in this lake?

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7. List three reasons why scientists are especially interested in these particular bacteria.

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**BETWEEN THE LINES**

**Making an inference:** An *inference* is a conclusion drawn from evidence. A plausible inference *is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.*

What inferences can you draw from the fact that 98 percent of Antarctica is covered by ice that averages at least 1.6 kilometres thick?

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**JUST TALK ABOUT IT**

1. What reasons can you suggest to explain why Antarctica has no permanent residents?
2. a) What is your understanding of the Antarctic Treaty and its addition, the Protocol on Environmental Protection? Summarize the key points of these treaties.  
b) What is the purpose of most treaties that you are familiar with? Provide examples to illustrate your response.  
c) As you see it, in what ways might the two Antarctic Treaties be unusual? What factors do you suppose might have led to the creation of these treaties? Explain.
3. As you see it, what is the significance of the Russians' accomplishment in Antarctica? Explain.

**ONLINE**

Visit our student website at [www.news4youth.com](http://www.news4youth.com) and click on the *What in the World?* tab to:

1. Find out more about Antarctica (or visit <http://www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk/index.php> and <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/about-antarctica/education-resources>).
2. View photographs of Antarctica (or visit <http://www.coolantarctica.com/>). *Note:* This site also offers photos of the Arctic. If you choose to view them, consider: How do the photos of Antarctica compare with those of the Arctic? In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?

After reading more about Antarctica and viewing photos of this continent, imagine that you have been given an opportunity to visit this region. For what reasons would you accept this opportunity? For what reasons would you decline?

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# **MAP ANTARCTICA**

Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *“Drilling Deep in Antarctica.”*

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

**Resources Required:** pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

**Part A** Locate and label the following in CAPITAL letters:

East Antarctica	West Antarctica
Antarctic Peninsula	

**Part B** Locate and label the following islands:

Alexander	Berkner
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**Part C** Locate and label the following ice shelves and shade them light grey:

Ross Ice Shelf	Ronne Ice Shelf
Filchner Ice Shelf	Amery Ice Shelf
Larsen Ice Shelf	Riiser-Larsen Ice Shelf

**Part D** Locate and label the subglacial Lake Vostok and shade it light blue.

**Part E** Locate and label the Antarctic summer pack ice limits.

**Part F** Locate and label the Antarctic winter pack ice limits.

**Part G** Locate and label the following bodies of salt water and shade all ocean water dark blue:

Atlantic Ocean	Southern Ocean
Weddell Sea	Bellingshausen Sea
Amundsen Sea	Pacific Ocean
Ross Sea	Indian Ocean

**Part H** Draw and label the Antarctic Circle (66°S).

**Part I** Draw and label the parallel of latitude at 80°S.

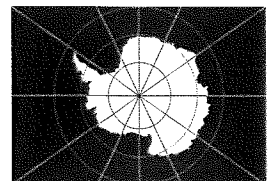
**Part J** Draw and label the following lines of longitude:

0° (Prime Meridian)	180°
90°E	90°W

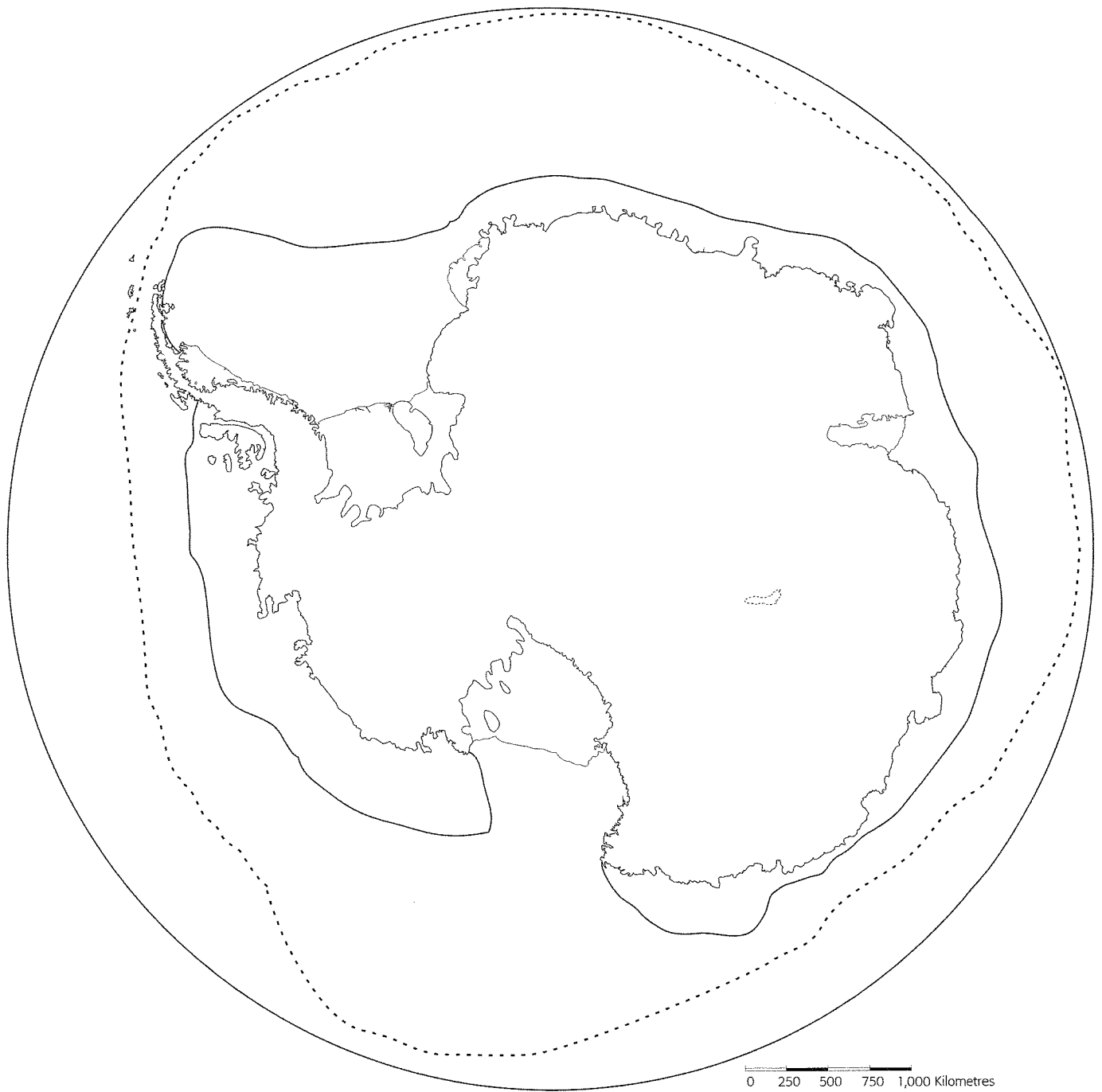
**Part K** Locate and label the following:

South Pole	South Magnetic Pole
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**Part L** Complete your map with a frame and title. ★



Antarctic Treaty Flag



0 250 500 750 1,000 Kilometres





# QUIZZES

## IRAN FLEXES ITS NUCLEAR MUSCLE

Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

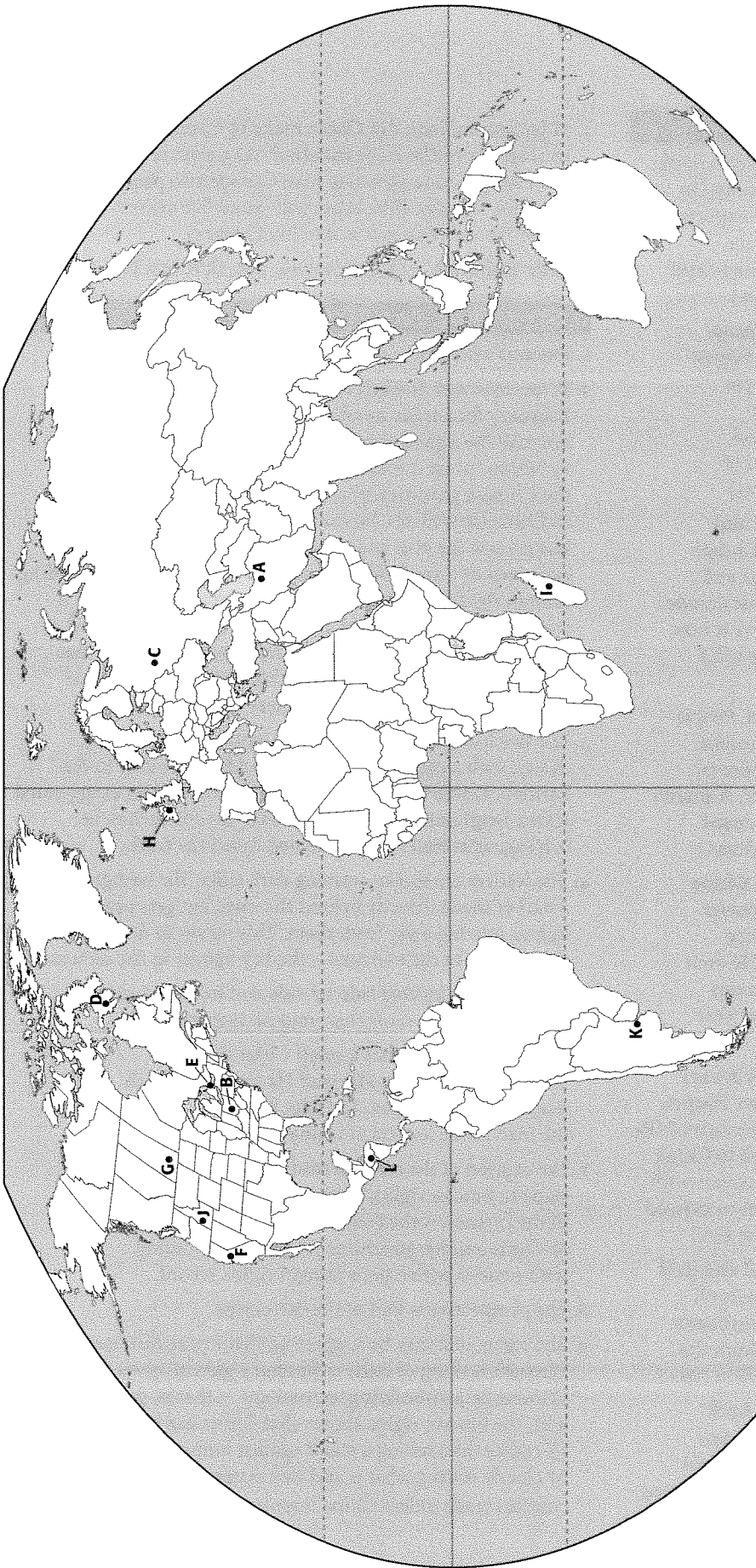
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. **Which country was the first to develop nuclear weapons?**  
a) China  
b) Germany  
c) Soviet Union  
d) United States
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **What type of government is in Iran?**  
a) socialist  
b) democratic  
c) theocracy  
d) communist  
e) monarchy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Which body of water has Iran threatened to close?**  
a) the Strait of Hormuz  
b) the Persian Gulf  
c) the Suez Canal  
d) the Red Sea  
e) the Gulf of Oman
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. **True or False?** Iran was once called Mesopotamia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **True or False?** Iran has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
6. ***Western nations should continue to pressure Iran to drop its nuclear weapons program.*** Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons to explain your answer.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## DRILLING DEEP IN ANTARCTICA

Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. **Which country is drilling down to Lake Vostok?**  
a) China  
b) Russia  
c) Soviet Union  
d) United States
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **What do scientists hope to discover in this lake?**  
a) microbes  
b) viruses  
c) organisms  
d) ancient plants  
e) prehistoric fish
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Drilling stopped nine years ago because:**  
a) the expedition ran out of money  
b) other countries wanted to drill in the same place  
c) there were concerns about contamination  
d) equipment would not work in the freezing cold  
e) scientists were unsure where to drill
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. **True or False?** Lake Vostok is much larger than Lake Ontario.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **True or False?** The water in Lake Vostok is not frozen.
6. As you see it, what is the significance of drilling down to Lake Vostok? Explain.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_





### MATCH THE CAPITALS: INSTRUCTIONS

- Using an atlas, match the capital city with the correct province, state, and country.
- In front of each city, list the letter on the map associated with that location.

Provinces and Territories	U.S. States	Countries
<input type="checkbox"/> Toronto _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> Moscow _____ Honduras
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Saskatchewan	<input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento _____ Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/> Tehran _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Iqaluit _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/> Buenos Aires _____ Madagascar



# ANSWER KEY

## THE PRIME MINISTER GOES TO CHINA

1. **Describe China's economy.** It is the world's largest exporter of goods and it is the fastest-growing major economy. (In size, it is second only to that of the U.S.) Its main exports include office machines, data processing equipment, telecommunications equipment, electrical machinery and clothing. (China's GDP is estimated at \$7.3 trillion.)
2. **List at least four other important facts about China.**
  - 1) At 9.6 million square kilometres, is the fourth biggest country by land mass; 2) with over 1.3 billion people, it has the world's largest population; 3) the capital is Beijing; 4) the official language is Mandarin; and 5) China has 56 distinct ethnic groups, the largest of which are the Han Chinese (91% of the population.)
3. **What is the value of Canada's exports to China and what is the value of the goods we import from China?** In 2010 Canada exported over \$13 billion to China and imported goods worth over \$44 billion. (In the last decade trade between the two countries has tripled. China is now Canada's second-largest trading partner after the U.S.)
4. **Describe China's human rights record.** By UN standards, China has a poor human rights record. People can be jailed, tortured or even killed for their opinions or for practicing a faith that doesn't have state approval. (Organizations such as the U.S. State Department, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch have accused the Chinese government of restricting basic freedoms.)
5. **Why was the relationship between Canada and China frosty after Mr. Harper's government came to power in 2006?** At the time, Mr. Harper kept his distance from China because of its human rights record. He even declined to attend the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. (The Chinese government made it clear that it didn't appreciate interference from outsiders.)
6. **Which Canadians travelled to China in early February and why did they make this trip?** Prime Minister Harper, accompanied by five cabinet ministers, six Conservative MPs, and 40 business and community leaders, travelled to China on a trade mission, hoping to encourage more business with the Asian nation. (Canada is seeking new markets to expand our economy and decrease our dependence on the U.S.)
7. **Why is China interested in buying Canadian oil and gas?** China's economy is booming and the country needs oil and gas to meet the demand of its citizens and businesses. (Canadian companies have proposed a pipeline from the Alberta oil sands to Kitimat, B.C. to ship crude oil to Asia.)
8. **How much new business did Mr. Harper bring back from China?** The prime minister brought back 21 new contracts worth about \$3 billion. (He also reached a deal with the Chinese government to protect Canadians investing in China as well as Chinese investors in Canada.)

9. **What special loan did China make to Canada on the last day of the trade mission?** As a gesture of friendship, China agreed to loan Canada two panda bears for 10 years. (The bears will spend five years at the Toronto Zoo before moving Calgary).

**Fact or Opinion?** 1. O; 2. O; 3. O; 4. F; 5. O; 6. F; 7. F.

## EDITORIAL CARTOON

1. *Answers will vary.*
2. Prime Minister Stephen Harper went to China in early February for a trade mission. Over the course of his four-day visit, he signed 21 new contracts that will add about \$3 billion to our economy. He also reached a key deal with the Chinese government to protect Canadians investing in China (as well as Chinese investors in Canada). Both leaders saw the visit as a success, although Mr. Harper was criticized in Canada for not taking a tougher stance regarding human rights. (By United Nations standards, China has a poor human rights record. People can be jailed, tortured or even killed for their opinions or for practicing a faith that doesn't have state approval. For this reason, some people think Canada shouldn't do business with the Chinese.)
3. The two leaders are shown with simplified features and drawn with a comical appearance, adding humour to the cartoon. Prime Minister Harper is shown with an exaggerated (extra-long) nose, likely to show that like Pinocchio, he is lying, or at least can't be trusted to tell the truth.
4. The leaders are shown wearing dark suits. The background is a darker shade directly behind the men, but gets progressively lighter moving away from them. This serves to draw the reader's eye to the two men – the key figures in the cartoon.
5. Both men are located side-by-side and front and centre in the cartoon to show their mutual importance.
6. The Chinese leader has a small Chinese flag on his lapel while Prime Minister Harper has a small maple leaf on his lapel. The flags help to identify the men as the leaders of China and Canada.
7. The caption of the cartoon reads "Stephen Harper links trade to human rights." This indicates that the topic of the cartoon is the Prime Minister's trade mission to China and his government's policy on trading with nations with a poor human rights record.
8. The perspective is that of the cartoonist.
9. The cartoonist may be suggesting that Prime Minister Harper's linking of trade to human rights involves "importing Chinese prison-building technology" – that is, going along with the human rights abuses that China has been accused of, rather than taking a stand against human rights violations by clearly stating what is and isn't acceptable or refusing to conduct trade unless China improves its human-rights record.



# ANSWER KEY

## A BUMPY RIDE FOR BILL C-30

- 1. How many people in Canada have access to a computer?**  
95 percent of Canadians have computer access either at work or at home, and 79 percent have Internet access. (75 percent of Canadians use cell phones.)
- 2. What private information do Internet Service Providers keep about their subscribers?** This information includes names, phone numbers, home addresses, e-mail addresses and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. (IP addresses can reveal what web sites you have gone to, the videos you view and what you read online.)
- 3. Describe the legal rules now in place if police wish to obtain confidential information from an ISP.**  
Police need a warrant (issued by a judge) if they want access to private data – although ISPs often provide this information voluntarily. (These requirements date back to 1982 when the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was enacted.)
- 4. What is the objective behind Bill C-30?** The purpose of the proposed law is to try to stop illegal activity on the Internet. The aim is to give police new powers to access subscriber data and electronic communications so they can quickly retrieve information about suspicious online activity.
- 5. How will this proposed law change Internet privacy in Canada?** If the legislation passes in its current form, it would give police new powers to retrieve information without a warrant. Police will be able to obtain personal information from telecommunications companies on demand. The proposed legislation also requires ISPs and mobile phone companies to alter their equipment (at a cost of \$80 million) so that authorities with a warrant can monitor any Internet or cell phone user.
- 6. List at least two organizations that are in favour of Bill C-30.** The Canadian Association of Police Chiefs, the Canadian Police Association, and the RCMP. (They say that Bill C-30 would bring Canada in line with other countries, and it is required since the Internet and other technologies are being used for criminal activity.)
- 7. List at least two reasons why some groups are opposed to Bill C-30.** 1) Privacy groups, opposition parties and some Conservative MPs say Bill C-30 puts Canadians' privacy at risk by making personal information easily available to others; 2) critics fear it could lead to abuse by police or government officials; and 3) opponents also say it is not necessary since companies usually provide personal information when police request it – even when there is no warrant.

## IRAN FLEXES ITS NUCLEAR MUSCLE

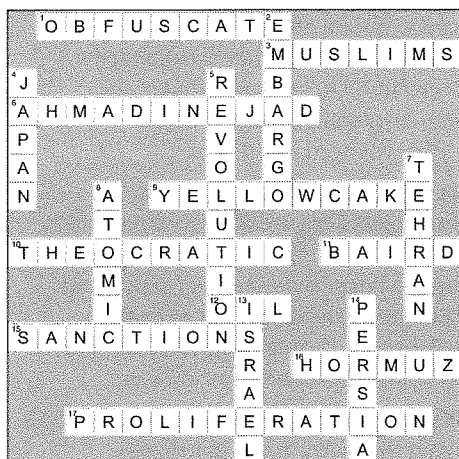
- 1. Describe the type of government in Iran.** It is a religious republic with a theocratic system of government – a government run by those who believe they are directed by God. (An Islamic revolution in 1979 overthrew the pro-western monarchy. After this happened, Iran's attitude towards the West changed significantly.)
- 2. List at least five other important facts about Iran.**
  - 1) Iran (Persia) was once a great empire, known for its poets, its artists and its culture;
  - 2) it is about 1.5 million square kilometres in size (slightly larger than Quebec);
  - 3) the main language is Persian;
  - 4) Islam is the dominant religion;
  - 5) Tehran is the capital;
  - 6) oil is the main export; and
  - 7) there are eight ethnic groups in a population of 78 million.
- 3. Why does Iran say it wants to develop nuclear power?**  
Iran says it wants to provide electricity to its growing population and economy and needs nuclear power for medical purposes. (Iran also claims that it needs to make its own nuclear fuel because it cannot trust outside suppliers.)
- 4. What did a recent UN report conclude is the real purpose of Iran's nuclear program?** A report released in November concluded that Iran wants to develop nuclear weapons. Iran has routinely blocked international efforts to investigate, but experts say there is no longer any doubt – the country is trying to build a powerful nuclear bomb. (They support this argument by saying that Iran does not need nuclear power because it has rich oil and natural gas deposits. Experts fear that a nuclear-armed Iran could seriously inflame Mideast tensions.)
- 5. What have some nations done to try to pressure Iran to stop its nuclear program? Explain.** Many countries have imposed sanctions against Iran. After the recent UN report, Canada, the U.S. and the European Union enacted an oil embargo to begin on July 1. The West will also stop doing business with Iranian banks and oil companies. (The goal is to weaken Iran's government, forcing it into talks – and into shelving its nuclear weapons development program.)
- 6. How has Iran responded to increasing pressure from the West? Explain.** In late January, President Ahmadinejad threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz. (The narrow strait off Iran is the only way to get from the Persian Gulf to the open sea.) Iran has also stopped exporting oil to the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands.
- 7. Explain what effect these actions might have on western economies.** One-fifth of all Middle East oil all travels via the Strait of Hormuz, so its closure would drastically reduce world oil supplies and cause the price of fuel to soar which in turn could harm the struggling global economy. (However, the U.S., which has a strong military presence in the region, vowed it would not allow Iran to close the strait.)

**Fact or Opinion?** 1. F; 2. F; 3. O; 4. O; 5. O; 6. F; 7. F.



# ANSWER KEY

## PUZZLE



## DRILLING DEEP IN ANTARCTICA

- List at least three important facts about Antarctica.**
  - 1) it is located at the South Pole; 2) It is the coldest, driest and windiest, and continent on the planet (and is technically a desert); 3) it is 14 million square kilometres in size (much larger than Australia); 4) most of this rocky continent is covered by thousands of metres of ice; 5) scientific studies of Antarctica began after World War II. Today, 28 nations are carrying out research on the continent; and 6) 49 countries have agreed that Antarctica should only be used for 'peaceful purposes.'
- Describe Lake Vostok.** It is a huge, liquid body of water the size of Lake Ontario that lies 3.8 kilometres beneath the frozen surface. It is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world – about 15,000 square kilometres in size, with depths reaching more than 800 metres.
- Explain why water is this lake is not frozen.**  
The combination of pressure from the ice above and heat from the Earth below keeps Lake Vostok from freezing.
- Scientists from which country are drilling down to this lake?** Russia (The drilling started in 1998.)
- Why did researchers stop drilling six years after they started?** They stopped over concerns of possible contamination to the untouched ancient ecosystem. (Work resumed in 2004 after the team came up with new, environmentally safe drilling methods.)
- What do researchers hope they might discover in this lake?** Microbes – bacteria that can't be seen with the naked eye. (Microbes were the first form of life on Earth – they existed long before plants and animals.)
- List three reasons why scientists are especially interested in these particular bacteria.** 1) Lake Vostok's microbes are enticing due to their incredible isolation. Sealed by an ice cap that prevented water from escaping and anything else

from getting in, the lake may have been cut off for 15 or 20 million years. If they exist, those tiny germs in Lake Vostok could give scientists a glimpse into long-ago life forms and expand our knowledge of the origins of life on the planet; 2) discovering microbes would also allow scientists to study how these micro-organisms have evolved over the millennia. There may be evolved microbial lifeforms in Lake Vostok that are new to science; and 3) if microbes are found in Lake Vostok, that means life could exist in similar conditions elsewhere in our solar system. There are places on Jupiter's and Saturn's moons where water is also trapped under crusts of ice.

## QUIZZES

### The Prime Minister Goes To China

1. c 2. c 3. a 4. False 5. False

### A Bumpy Ride For Bill C-30

1. a 2. c 3. d 4. True 5. False

### Iran Flexes Its Nuclear Muscle

1. d 2. c 3. a 4. False 5. True

### Drilling Deep In Antarctica

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. False 5. True

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- G) **Regina** Saskatchewan
- D) Iqaluit **Nunavut**

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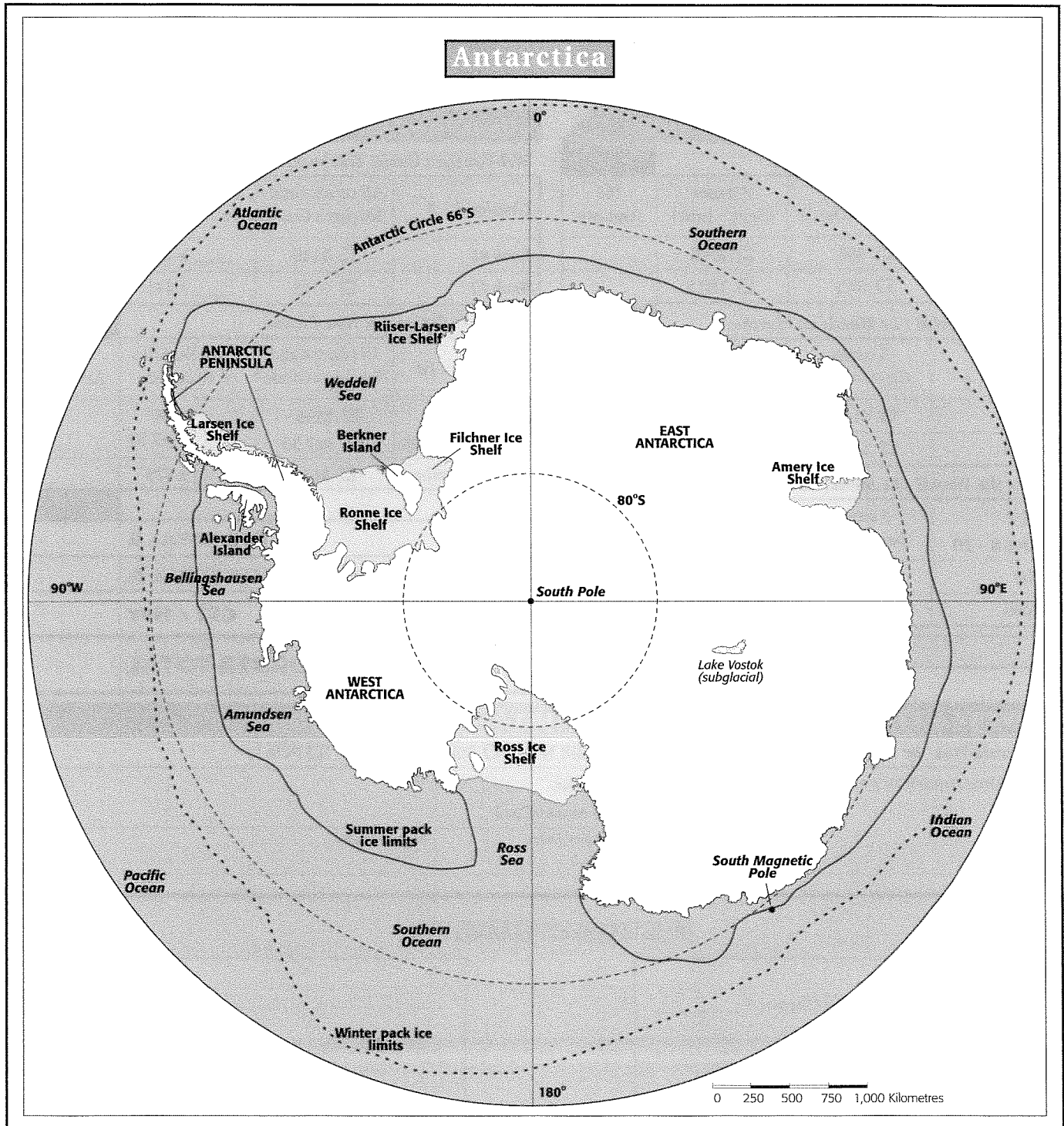
- C) Moscow **Russia**
- H) **Dublin** Ireland
- K) Buenos Aires **Argentina**

### U.S. States

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- F) Sacramento **California**
- J) **Boise** Idaho
- L) **Tegucigalpa** Honduras
- A) **Tehran** Iran
- I) **Antananarivo** Madagascar



# ANSWER KEY





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